its studies have concluded that the VVER-1000 Nuclear Power Plants of Russian design are similar to Pressurised Water Reactors (PWRs) of western design. The design of model 320 is consistent with standard international practices for safety systems and safety related systems. The basis safety concepts of defence-in-depth is realised by design criteria, including the use of redundancy, diversity, independence and fail-safe design. The reactors being offered to india are VVER-1000 Model 392 type, which is a more advanced version of Model 320, Model 392 has been assessed by the IAEA to be equivalent to the most advanced PWR designs developed by western countries. The design features of the proposed Kudankulam Plant will meet the regulatory requirement of India and its design will be licensed by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). The plant will be made capable for operating with high performance reliably and safely in the Indian grid conditions. Government will take necessary steps to ensure that it has the latest design features and meet the latest international safety requirements.

Heavy Loss to IREL due to Recent Cyclone

2351. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Rare Earths Ltd. (IREL) sustained huge losses due to recent super cyclone in Orissa;

(b) if so, the estimated damage caused to Indian Rare Earths Ltd.;

(c) the steps taken to repair the damage; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes Sir, the plants in the Orissa Sands Complex of the Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL) at Chhatrapur in Orissa suffered extensive damage due to the cyclone of 17-18 October 1999.

(b) Major damages suffered are as under:

(1) Absestos roofing and side cladding of all the plants and godowns were extensively damaged.

(2) Altogether, 4 chimneys (3 of the Acid Regeneration Plant and 1 of the Synthetic Rutile Plan) were dislodged.

(3) Three out of 17 power transmission towers (132 KVA) were uprooted, resulting in stoppage of power supply to all the plants.

(4) A part of the ilmenite stock was blown off.

(5) Production had to be stopped for about one-and-a-half months.

(c) and (d) (1) Power supply was restored on 22 November 1999.

(2) After detailed checking of all electrical equipment, production has been restarted on 01 December 1999.

(3) The work of replacing absestos roofing/cladding is in full swing.

(4) Appropriate claims have been lodged with the Insurance company concerned.

Performance of Atomic Power Station

2352. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether all atomic power stations in the country are functioning well;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) how much power is generated to meet the power shortage in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.